



Norm Johnstone, a training and development faculty member, shows bass fishing student Brad Favron how to reel in a fish at the Doon campus pond on June 21.  
(Photo by Andrea Bailey)

## Fishing lesson held at Doon pond

By Andrea Bailey

In preparation for the upcoming bass fishing season, Conestoga opened its Doon campus pond to children for a group lesson on June 21.

Norm Johnstone, a training and development faculty member, said he taught about 10 children between the ages of six and 10 some basic bass fishing techniques, such as setting up the reels and tackle, unhooking and releasing the fish and making cheap lures.

Johnstone, who has fished for bass as a hobby for about 45 years, said the first hour of the four-hour instruction was spent inside a classroom.

"We thoroughly go over safety rules in the class," said Johnstone. "We talk about having a buddy system, not having hooks with barbs and other safety issues."

After the first hour, Johnstone said everyone went out to the pond and agreed on certain areas to fish. From there, he said, he walked around and helped children who needed assistance.

"The kids usually need help with untangling their rods," said Johnstone. "We actually had a couple of funny things happen this morning. One child broke

his rod within the first 15 minutes of class. Another girl set up her rod, but found she left the handle at home.

"I brought three rods of my own in case of problems. Natural Sports in Kitchener also loaned us eight reels. But, for the most part, the kids used their own equipment."

Johnstone said, though the group used common forms of bait such as worms and plastic, he found "power bait" to be the most effective in catching fish.

"Power baits are basically chopped up fish parts," he said.

"The bass smell the other fish and take the hook."

He added, "Black is a good color to use for bait because it's the color of the poly-wogs the fish feed off of in the pond."

Johnstone said, once the fish were caught, the children had to throw them back into the pond.

Fish that were hooked badly were also thrown back to die.

He said people are prohibited from fishing in the pond unless they are taking a college-run course in fishing.

"Security would waste no time in kicking regular fishermen out because it's private property here," he said.

Bass fishing season runs annually from the last week in June until December, said Johnstone.

**"Security would waste no time in kicking regular fishermen out because it's private property here."**

*Norm Johnstone, bass fishing course instructor*

## Drug plan fee

### Students who don't pay face collection agency

By Tim Kylie

A Conestoga student who doesn't want to pay the Doon Student Association (DSA) drug plan fee when she pays her tuition and other fees could face a collection agency if she refuses.

Vicky Lichty, DSA administrative assistant, told a DSA executive meeting June 17 that she received a phone call from a student who said she was eligible to opt out of the drug plan and receive a reimbursement. She wanted to know if she could arrange not to pay the fee in the first place, Lichty said.

Lichty said she phoned RWAM Insurance Administrators Inc. to inquire on behalf of the student but was told the student must pay for the plan up front and receive a reimbursement later.

Thomas Müller, DSA education and communication coordinator, said college staff adviser Jack Fletcher had suggested before the meeting making a donation on the student's behalf and asking her to pay it back later.

DSA director of student life Becky Boertien said many students are in the same position as the one who phoned, and if a precedent was established the DSA would have to be willing to make similar arrangements for all students.

That could change the focus of the plan from an opt-out plan to an opt-in plan, said DSA president Chris Kroeker.

After discussing options, DSA executive members agreed to contact the student and tell her she must pay for the drug plan with the rest of her

college bill.

They also agreed to tell the student about the deferred payment option that Conestoga students can arrange with the registrar's office to pay their tuition and fees after registration.

College registrar Fred Harris said in an interview that the registrar's office is responsible for collecting the DSA drug plan fee.

The last resort for getting students to pay their bill is to send them to a collection agency, he said.

"Believe me, they don't want to go to collections because it affects their credit rating," he said.

He said students who haven't paid their bill when they come to the college to register in late August will be stopped and made to arrange for payment using the deferred payment option. There is a \$50-fee for deferred payment, he added.

If a student doesn't live up to the deferred payment agreement or somehow gets past all the "hurdles" at registration without paying, he or she will be sent to a collection agency, he said.

He said the deferred payment option is not always the best option for students, especially if they pay a portion of the bill on time.

"If it's an \$80-fee and that's the only fee you're deferring, then I don't think that makes a lot of economic sense," he said.

He said the registrar's office sometimes gets phone calls inquiring about the drug plan, but since the DSA is "an independent body" and the drug plan fee is not the college's money, he refers all inquiries to the DSA.

## Butting out

# Smoking to be banned at three college doorways

By Alison Shadbolt

Smoking will be banned at three of Conestoga's doorways in August, said Kim Radigan, who formed Conestoga's new smoking committee.

Doors 1 and 5 of the main building and the parking lot door of the student/client services building will be smoke-free, she said.

"It (the smoking ban) will go into effect on Aug. 1. We thought Sept. 1 was too late because we don't want all the students here for orientation and then all of a sudden change the rules. It will also get the people who are here on campus during the summer used to it."

People will be permitted to smoke in all other doorways, including Door 3, where the bus stops, said Radigan, who is also the coordinator of health, safety and environment at Conestoga.

Radigan said she was asked by college council to form the committee after employees and students complained to the council about smoking in doorways.

Some of their concerns included Conestoga's public image, cleanliness, safety entering and exiting when doorways are crowded and the effects on asthmatics of walking through cigarette smoke, she said.

The smoking committee does not make decisions, but discusses resolutions to problems and makes recommendations to the academic operating committee, said Radigan.

The nine committee members were recommended to Radigan, who then asked them to join, she said.

She did not want to disclose their names.

The nine members include: a Doon Student Association (DSA) member; a DSA employee; members of the faculty and support staff unions; staff from the physical resources department, housekeeping department and community and public relations office; a health sciences faculty member; and Radigan.

Radigan said the smoking committee first met on May 28. They unanimously agreed to recommend three smoke-free doorways, she said.

"There was certainly a lot of discussion and that's what we came up with. We thought it was a reasonable solution. It doesn't mean that in the future we can't decide to do something different."

The new rule was suggested to the academic operating committee and approved quickly so it could be included in the student orientation guides for next semester, said Radigan.

She said she doesn't foresee any problems enforcing the smoking ban, because there are other areas where smoking is allowed.

Security may be asked to remind people not to smoke during the first few weeks while smokers get used to the new rule.

The smoking committee met again on June 18 to discuss no-smoking signs, communication of the new rule and the possibility of different ashtrays to keep cigarette butts from blowing around on windy days, said Radigan. No decisions were made.

They will meet occasionally for at least another year to evaluate the effectiveness of the rules and discuss any new smoking-related problems, she said.



# Microsoft courses soon to be offered part time

By Bob Puersten

Conestoga's training and development department will be offering Microsoft certified courses on a part-time basis starting in September, said the manager of the department.

Sandra Schelling said the program has been offered fulltime by the training and development department since January and demand for a part-time program has motivated the addition.

"We get a lot of calls from people saying 'Great program. I love it. But, I'm working.' So, now they can take the preparatory course and continue on in the certified courses from Microsoft."

Schelling said that, through the program, a student can become a Microsoft certified systems engineer, the highest designation that one can receive from Microsoft. The program includes certification in working with Microsoft NT, a network-based operating system similar to Windows 95, said Schelling.

"There's a huge demand for it (certification)," said Schelling. "We're running

two programs right now, and, in the one program, they're (participants) already all placed (in jobs) and they haven't even finished yet."

There are two options available for students wishing to take Microsoft certified courses.

The program can be taken every Tuesday and Thursday evenings and every other Saturday for a year or courses can be taken individually, said Schelling.

The entire program costs \$7,000 and the prices of individual courses range from \$900 to \$1,300. With the course-by-course method, a student needs a minimum of six courses to get Microsoft certification.

The cost of the program includes a voucher for testing at a Microsoft testing centre (\$100 US) as well as the cost of books and materials which are supplied by Microsoft.

The total cost for materials is "in the thousands of dollars," said Schelling.

"It (the \$7,000-fee) seems like a lot of money, but really, when you include the course materials and the testing vouchers

and how much it costs to pay for an instructor, it's low."

In addition to working people, Schelling said she could see full-time students at Conestoga in electronics and technology programs taking Microsoft certified courses because it would complement their background.

"Everything we offer here, we try to make it leading-edge, state of the art, very current, and these (the Microsoft certified curricula) wouldn't be offered in the full-time diploma programs, because they're just brand new."

Schelling said offering the Microsoft certification program is a good step for Conestoga.

"This is major for Conestoga College because we're offering the Microsoft courses. It's showing that we're supposed to be a corporate training centre and now we actually have IT (information technology) technical courses. People will be coming to Conestoga College from industry for these IT courses which other colleges are not doing right now."



Sandra Schelling, Conestoga's manager of training and development, holds a manual/video set for Microsoft education and certification. The set costs \$300. (Photo by Bob Puersten)

## Continuing education changing

By Shawn Leonard

The continuing education programs must keep changing to meet the needs of society, said the director of continuing education at Conestoga College.

David Stewart said that one of the changes setting up is more diploma programs, especially in the general arts and sciences and business courses.

He also said that it is important to make these courses shorter in length, instead of having to take five to six years to get a diploma.

"Most students simply can't afford to go to school to get a diploma," said Stewart. "They

have families and other responsibilities to look after, so this will allow them to work during the day any get their diploma at night."

Stewart said that this keeps in line with the goal of continuing education to give quality programs at a reasonable price. He said that they want to meet the students needs in helping to upgrade their skills.

Stewart said that a recent survey of continuing education indicates that they are doing a good job at doing this. In the survey, Conestoga satisfaction rate was extremely high.

"We know that the majority of students coming to Conestoga are

here to upgrade their skills so they can move to other jobs."

He said the feedback from the students show that they are meeting those needs.

Stewart said that the reason students are choosing Conestoga over other schools is the excellence of the college's teachers and instructors.

He said that besides being very dedicated to their courses, they are usually practitioners, which means that they are working in the field they are teaching. This allows them to bring their expertise to the classroom.

Stewart said this helps make the courses current.

## Rec centre adds public user fees

By Rebecca Eby

A two-per-cent increase to community membership fees at the Conestoga College recreation centre will not cost students a penny, but it will be of benefit to them, said the director of the centre.

"We will charge community users a small fee for repairs and upkeep," Ian James said.

"Student fees will not be affected in any way."

James said at present, community groups who use the recreation centre pay only for the actual use of the facilities and equipment.

"We've never charged a user fee on top of that."

Now the college's board of governors has approved a contingency fund which will be used to offset the cost of wear and tear that community groups put on the equipment and facilities.

James said, "It hasn't been criticized by any groups because it's so minute."

A program that would normally carry a fee of \$100, for example, will cost only \$102 with the increase.

"Over the extended number of

programs we run," he said, "it makes a difference to us."

"It is crucial to present users with equipment that is more current."

James said modernization will be more easily achieved when the centre can use its own contingency fund for incidentals such as nets, basketball rims and badminton rackets.

It can also be used for purchases over \$200.

These purchases would otherwise have to be approved through the college's more lengthy capital purchases process.

He said the new fund will give the recreation centre, "within reason, control of our destiny" in providing for users.

The first major purchase the recreation centre intends to make with its new budget will be in what James called one of the most popular rooms: the weightroom. He said he hopes improvements here will encourage greater participation.

Students are telling him they want more free weights and better universal equipment, he said.

"Whatever equipment we get, I want it to be mutually beneficial

for men and women."

Safety is a concern when looking at new equipment as well.

James said the other party that will be consulted in making any purchase for the weightroom will be the Doon Student Association (DSA).

He has asked the association to support the weightroom project by matching the contingency fund up to \$6,000.

"This way, we can double the money and see student involvement in what kind of equipment they want to use here."

Chris Kroeker, president of the DSA said the association has considered the proposal. "We agree with them that (the weightroom) needs to be worked on."

However, he said the donation is dependent on how many dollars are raised through this year's fund-raising efforts, and there is no guarantee how much that will be.

"We're going to do what we can, but we can't commit a set amount."

James said if all goes well, students at Conestoga should see an improved weightroom by the fall 1998 term.

## College tour delayed for Chinese visitors

By L.A. Livingston

Joseph Brookman planned on having a holiday last week, but ended up spending part of it in an office attempting to figure out what to do when his visitors from China unexpectedly had their trip postponed.

Brookman, associate director of international education at Conestoga College, was expecting 10 visitors from the Electric Power Bureau in Heilongjiang Province in northern China to arrive June 6.

He said the group has been given permission to come, but has run into problems with visa approval and transfer of funds.

The trip would be approved by the power bureau, which is affiliated with one of the ministries of the government, Brookman said.

"They have to get an exit visa and permission from their government, in this case from the province that they live in, so they can leave to travel abroad."

Once they have chosen Canada as the place they want to go to, the process to get a visitors visa to enter the country can get a little involved, he said.

"These are very senior people, and we have never been refused in the past."

The process sometimes gets muddled and slowed down, Brookman said, so what they can't do in June, they end up doing in the middle of July.

"It makes it difficult because until you know the days, you can't book company visits or excursions or other things that complement the training program. It's very difficult to finalize hotels or transportation," he said.

"They'll call and they'll let us know today that they're coming tomorrow, and we'll have to

scramble to put everything together."

Brookman says the group may come in a couple of weeks, but it makes it difficult to know if he can go away on holidays or not.

The group is coming for 18 days' instruction on how to develop curriculums within the electric power generating industry, he said.

"They would like to see how we generate power using coal, how we distribute electricity, and our people services: how we bill customers and how we maintain customer relations."

Five of the 18 days will be instruction on how develop skills training for an electric generating operation at the electric centre at the college, Brookman said.

The instruction will be complemented by visits to a distribution centre, a generating plant and a local hydroelectric office that bills customers and handles their complaints and inquiries, said Brookman.

The group will also participate in trips to Toronto, Niagara Falls and Ottawa.

"So it is both informative for them and it is also cultural. For all of them, this would be their first trip outside of China, and probably their only trip outside of China in their lifetime," he said.

"Knowing that, we not only have to satisfy their needs academically from a training point of view, because most of these people will be principals of electrical schools that teach power generating maintenance, but also we want to give them a very good sight-seeing tour of this part of Canada."

Canada is always seen as a very progressive country, Brookman said.

## Correction

A name was spelled incorrectly in the June 23 issue of Spoke. Gwen Jacob is the correct spelling.



## DSA profile: administrative assistant Vicky Lichty loves her job

By Lynne Thompson

According to Vicky Lichty, the only thing she doesn't like about her job is that she doesn't get to spend enough time at it.

As administrative assistant for the Doon Student Association (DSA), Lichty's position is one of two on the executive which are permanent, full-time jobs.

However, Lichty said that due to less student activity during the summer months, her hours are cut from 35 per week to 26 per week.

Lichty, who has been the DSA administrative assistant since September, 1996, said she loves her job.

"I've never had a job before where I come into work in a good mood," she said. "With other jobs, sometimes you don't want to get out of bed in the morning, but with this job I love coming to work."

Lichty's career path did not take a straight line to the position she now holds.

Early in her high school career, she said, she took hairdressing courses in Guelph. However, her interest in the trade died out and she discontinued the courses.

After high school, which Lichty said she just wanted to get in and out of, she began law clerk courses at the Ontario Business College in Kitchener.

Next, she switched into the one-year legal secretary program from which she received her diploma.

Lichty said that although she enjoyed the secretarial part of her education, she disliked the legal aspects and has no interest in working in a law office.

As administrative assistant in the DSA office, Lichty said she has a number of responsibilities including answering phone calls, customer service, taking and transcribing the minutes of the executive meetings, buying office supplies and typing for the members of the executive.

Since this past March, Lichty said she

has also taken over some of the accounting duties, such as cheque runs, because the DSA's hired accountant left the position for another job.

In order to keep her skills updated, Lichty said she continues to take courses to further her education. She is currently enrolled in computer and accounting classes, and eventually hopes to reach her goal of a bookkeeping certificate.

Outside of work, Lichty said, she enjoys spending time with her family, her friends and her husband of one year.

She said she also enjoys walking, doing crafts and remodelling her house.

Overall, Lichty said she has nothing to complain about in her life and has no regrets. "I have done pretty much everything I wanted to do. Everything has ran smoothly in my life."

One aspect of her life which Lichty said does stand out is her education.

In this day-and-age, many people don't even finish high school, she said. "I'm proud that I got to finish my schooling."



Vicky Lichty  
DSA administrative assistant

## DSA profile: promotions assistant

# Make students happy says club manager

By Tim Kylie

The purpose of the Doon Student Association (DSA) is to make students happy and give them what they want, a DSA promotions assistant said in a recent interview.

Dave White said one way the DSA tries to fill this mandate is by organizing events students enjoy attending, including movie nights, dinners and concerts.

White, 19, will enter his second year of Conestoga's three-year marketing program in September, but for the summer he is busy helping to prepare the DSA for its "hectic" orientation week schedule. In addition to attending planning meetings, he is familiarizing himself with his duties as clubs manager.

He said he will introduce about 35 extracurricular clubs in September, representing a variety of student interests ranging from chess and games to skiing and karate.

While the DSA plays a role in organizing clubs and provides some funding for them, they are created by students, he added. A club needs 10 members, and at least one executive member, to receive recognition by the DSA, he said.

He said not every club he will introduce in September will survive the entire school year, although some, such as the ski club and the golf club, have been quite popular in previous years. "Japanimation will do really well because it did really well last year," he said in reference to the Japanese animation club Control-A which began in 1996-97.

Facilitating student clubs and working for the DSA are part of the "more active role" that White wanted to take to help students have a memorable time at college, he said.

He said friends encouraged him last April to go for an interview for a position with the DSA. While he didn't know any of the current DSA members before his interview, he



Dave White,  
DSA promotions assistant

has formed good friendships with them since, he said.

"What I like to do is meet new people and make new friends because that helps everyone," he said. "Everyone who knows me in my course can ask me questions about the DSA and how I can help, and I can forward them to everyone else on the DSA now that I know them."

He said he would consider running for a position on the DSA next year, although between going to school, tutoring, and working as a meat cutter at Zehrs supermarket in Preston, the president's job would probably be too much work.

"Sometimes I push myself too hard," he said. "My main goal last year was to get on the dean's list. With applying for DSA and working at work and tutoring, I didn't have much time to study, so I would stay up all night studying."

## FOI Act a help to some a hindrance to others

By Corey Jubenville

Ontario's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act is helpful to some and a hinderance to others, depending on what you're after, said Conestoga's assistant co-ordinator of freedom of information and privacy.

"It protects people's privacy yet allows people to get the public information they should get," said Courtemanche. But it can also keep information from journalists and writers doing research.

Courtemanche said Conestoga releases no information on students to anyone, unless consent is given to release or the information is relevant to a police investigation.

Records are maintained by the college for at least one year, unless consent is given for early disposal of the information.

Conestoga keeps records on students that includes information on enrolment forms, marks, and anything written about a student. Students can get access to this information anytime, unless the college disposes of the information, said Courtemanche.

Information, such as a student's record, can be kept by the college

for an indefinite period of time, he said. "We (the college) have records on student marks that go way back to the '70s, maybe even the '60s."

However, personal information relating to other students or teachers, such as information on disciplinary hearings or medical records, is strictly confidential.

Conestoga's health nurse, Trish Weiler, said that all medical information is confidential. The only people who have access to a student's medical records are the health nurse, the doctor, and the health and safety coordinator in an emergency.

Written consent is needed to release any medical records, even to another doctor. In the case of HIV testing, Weiler said, confidentiality is maintained through a coded number system.

Information that can be obtained under the act includes budgets of organizations, such as colleges. The salary range for a specific job can be obtained, but an individual's salary is confidential, Courtemanche said.

In order to obtain information under the act, there is a \$5 application fee, not including any research time, which costs \$28 per hour.

## DSA Used Textbook Sale August 25 - 28

Do you have textbooks to sell?  
You could have them sold at the  
DSA Used Textbook Sale

**Textbook Drop off Dates**  
Drop off your textbooks to the DSA Office  
April 28 to August 15

No books will be accepted after August 15

More information available at  
the DSA Office or call 748-5131





# perspective SPOKE

## Life's a joy when life's a dream

The pressure has really been getting to me lately and it's time I came clean. For the past 38 years I've been living my life under an assumed identity, or I should say identities.

It just got to be so easy. I didn't know when to quit, and now I don't know who I really am.

It started around 1963, when, like other children, I was very impressionable. Television could be blamed for the state I'm in but it probably would have happened anyway. I was allowed to stay up on nights *The Saint* or *The Man From U.N.C.L.E.* were shown, and that was the start of my problem. I didn't know how to separate the real world from my fantasy world.

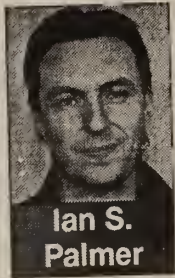
Though there were only three channels to choose from, new programs were shown by the BBC regularly. *Maverick*, *Get Smart*, even *Bewitched* made its way across the ocean. I didn't know which way to turn.

One day I pretended I was Simon Templar, the next day I was Bret Maverick. I had the ability to be anybody I wanted. It was all very confusing to a five-year-old.

Things were simplified slightly after I witnessed the spectacle that was *The Magnificent Seven*, followed closely by a heavy dose of *Bonanza*. I knew then, that a cowboy's life was the life for me.

It seemed so simple. Seven days in a week, seven cowboys to emulate. It seemed odd, though, when I noticed one of the magnificent cowboys was also Napoleon Solo from *U.N.C.L.E.*

Six-shooters dangled from my waist daily, but in southern England, fellow



Ian S. Palmer

Now who am I going to be tomorrow:



JUNE 2036  
 1- THE SAINT ✓  
 2- Jim Rockford ✓  
 3- Joe Cartwright  
 4- Gilligan-Samey Rubble  
 5- Maxwell Smart  
 6- Frank Serpico  
 7- Jethro Bodine  
 8- Columbo  
 9- Kramer  
 10- Darren Stevens

cowboys and Indians were hard to find. So I had to forgo my wild-west career and concentrate on being a crime fighter.

At the time, *Batman* was all the rage but I didn't like the idea of wearing a cape to school, besides, who would be Robin?

New life was breathed into my quest after coming to Canada. It was heaven for a budding detective. So many television channels to watch with an endless supply of super sleuths jumping across the screen. There was Steve McGarrett, Theo Kojak, Toma, Joe Mannix, followed later by Jim Rockford and Columbo.

I was set. I lived the life of a detective and mailed away for all the essentials. I had a pistol, badge, and magnifying glass and I spent hours making sure my classmates weren't enemy spies or super villains.

The novelty wore off as I grew older and discovered girls. Now when I went to bed the headphones would be turned up to 10 and I transformed myself into the lead singer of The Who or Mott The Hoople, with my mates rounding out the rest of the band.

The next night, we might form the

nucleus of the Maple Leafs and hammer the hated Habs.

The dreams kept coming and I lived numerous lives from little Joe Cartwright to Borje Salming, and dozens in between.

As I turned the age of majority I still couldn't separate fantasy from reality. Driving through northern Scotland and Portugal in the '80s I was still The Saint, no doubt about it.

A short stint with the Niagara police force also confirmed what I knew all along. I WAS Serpico. With the roof light flashing on my '76 Cutlass, U-turns and red light running suddenly became legal.

Frankly, there is no distinction between my childhood and adulthood. Life seems to be a smorgasboard of opportunities which should be sampled as we supposedly grow up. It's never too late to try something new.

I look at my mature years and it's just my childhood relived. A policeman, hockey player, soccer player, boxer, actor, director. Somebody once said, "Be brilliant at nothing but good at everything," which I considered good advice on how to enjoy life.

## Too many rights can be wrong

Because I'm always tired these days I have sought to simplify my life. I have promised myself not to overthink situations and make them more complicated than they are already.

So when I read an article recently about the Supreme Court meeting that day to hear the case of the solvent-sniffing woman in Winnipeg, I took notice. For me, it is an example of a difficult situation made more so because people are concerned about the wrong things.

The Supreme Court was to hear an appeal on a decision that overturned a Manitoba judge ruling. The original ruling allowed the Winnipeg Child and Family Service to force a woman, pregnant with her fourth child, to have treatment for her addiction.

As far as I'm concerned, the Supreme Court shouldn't even be hearing this appeal because the Manitoba Court of



Pat Craton

Appeal shouldn't have overturned the judge's decision in the first place.

The woman at the centre of this situation had been hospitalized twice for sniffing solvents while pregnant. Two of her three children are mentally and physically handicapped as a result of her addiction. This was why the Winnipeg Child and Family Services sought the unprecedented order — to protect her unborn child.

What was wrong with that? Apparently it impinged on the rights of pregnant women to do what they want with their bodies. Of course it means the Supreme Court will have to consider now the rights of the unborn. How can they not to do that in all fairness? If you're going to open up a case on the grounds of infringements of individual's rights, you might as well go all the way.

One of the fears that was voiced by Jo Dufay of the Canadian Abortion Rights Action League was that "forcing women into treatment when they're pregnant simply drives women at risk away from prenatal care. That can cause severe harm to a pregnant woman and her subsequent

child." Is Dufay aware of the woman's two disabled children?

But what is more important here? The infringements of individual rights or concern for the well being of the individual whether that individual likes it or not?

There are those who would only be too happy to tell me that the rights of an individual are all important and I wouldn't argue with that. What I would tell you though is just make sure that in exercising your rights you don't trespass on others'. And in the case of the solvent-sniffing woman, her actions have an impact on the rest of us.

Who do you think will be paying for the long-term care of her disabled children? Not her. Tax dollars coming from our pockets is more likely. Don't get me wrong, I am all for looking out and helping the less fortunate but when they persist in behaving irresponsibly, then they must forgo some rights a person is normally entitled to.

Consideration of too many rights has made this case more complicated than it has a right to be. And that's wrong.

## Year-round school issue a smokescreen for budget cuts

Education Minister John Snobelen's latest idea to have year-round schooling for all grades is just another one of his attempts to test public mood or to get the public's attention.

Possibly, if you're reading this column, you are already going to school in the summer and are familiar with the pros and cons of the experience.

I find it to be tiring and I'm looking forward to the breaks between semesters.

Fortunately, most students have either already entered the workforce before attending Conestoga, or will be after they graduate from their program.

Once in the workforce, you will not be able to have two months off in the summer, so year-round schooling is good in preparation.

The system would have it so students attend school for 12 months and have their two months vacation spread over the year.

The basis for Snobelen's plan is that studies have shown that after an eight-week summer hiatus, some students have to relearn in September.

Unfortunately this idea will not go over well with either younger students or their parents.

The year-round schooling is part of an overall study of education funding reform by a four-member panel appointed by Snobelen.

Snobelen probably knows that this plan will go nowhere, but it is just a ploy to sway public attention away from what I think is his real plan — cutting funding for education.

The whole thing is quite ironic, since Snobelen is a well-known high school dropout.

Snobelen probably knows that this plan will go nowhere, but it is just a ploy to sway public attention away from what I think is his real plan — cutting funding for education.

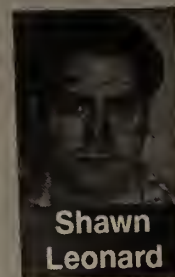
Less than a year ago, Snobelen said that he was looking to trim \$1 billion from education spending. He has since tried to avoid talking about that plan.

He figures that the public will be relieved when the idea of year-round schooling is dropped, and won't realize what really has happened to the education system.

A number of people are wondering what Snobelen is up to by appointing a four-person panel to study education funding.

It could seem that Snobelen has found four people to recommend what he has been looking for.

Which is to set up a per-pupil funding system that will set the stage for him to make further cuts in education spending.



Shawn Leonard

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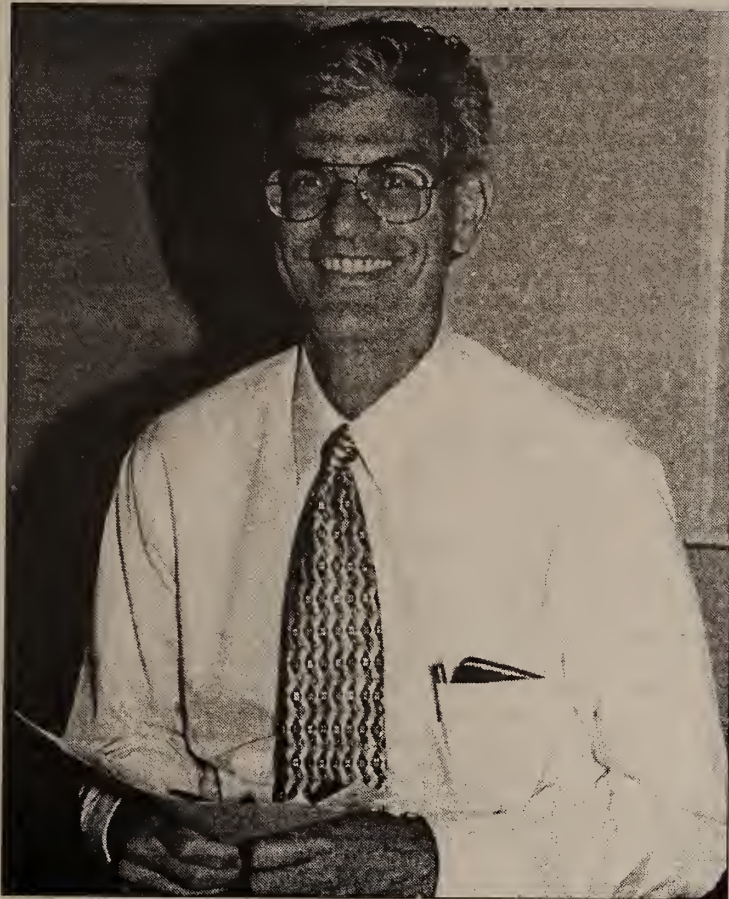
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# Depression increasing among young adults



By Lynn Jackson

In the next few years, depression will be the number one disorder in the world, said Dr. Edgardo Perez, executive vice-president and chief of staff at Guelph's Homewood Health Centre.

Perez visited the college on June 19 to give a seminar on depression in the workplace. The seminar, hosted by Conestoga student services counsellor Barbara Kraler, was a professional development activity attended by 20 members of staff and faculty.

Kraler said she wanted to have Perez visit during the regular school year, but schedule conflicts prevented the University of Toronto and University of Ottawa psychology professor from visiting at an earlier date.

Kraler said she thought having a well-qualified speaker on the topic would help faculty and staff, especially support staff, learn more about the disorder and be better equipped to handle instances of depression with students.

"As counsellors, we were seeing increases in the number of students who were having depression," she said.

Perez said depression peaks when people are between 70 and 80, in their mid-40s and early to mid-20s. Describing the early 20s

as a time of uncertainty for most, Perez said depression in that age group has been significantly increasing in the past few years. Perez attributes depression in the early 20s to a stage when people trying to "find" themselves, along with the pressure and decreasing opportunities involved in finding employment.

To the onslaught of depression, Perez also attributes a society where people are becoming more isolated. "Today's pace of life is rushed, and we want to accomplish so many things and have such demanding schedules," he said. "We undervalue connections and often don't even have the time to conversationalize."

Perez said that often depressives don't seek help because of the stigma attached to being labelled a depressive.

"There's a lack of understanding. Many people still think that it (depression) means that your brain doesn't work properly," he said.

Through the seminars on depression he has been giving for the last year-and-a-half, Perez said his main goal is to increase awareness about the growing disorder. "It's the best way to convince people that it's OK, that they should get help."

After showing a video with interviews with manic depressives,

Perez outlined four main types of depression.

Adjustment disorder usually lasts about two or three weeks and is often related to a particular event. Dysthymic disorder is a more long-term depression that affects approximately two to three per cent of the population.

Those who suffer from major depression, a more intense disorder than dysthymic, often do not eat or sleep enough, said Perez. Manic depression, though it's one of the most intense disorders, is atypical in that people with this type of depression usually eat and sleep a lot and experience a mood cycle with extreme ups and downs.

Perez added that there is also a seasonal-affective disorder where a decrease in light, such as during the winter months, changes the brain's chemistry and causes depression.

He said that in the last 10 years the diagnosing of depression disorders has become more precise due to a better understanding of the involvement of biological factors, more studies and the more general fact that psychiatry has improved.

Perez said that he finds depression difficult to treat. "We (psychiatrists and counsellors) have to be able to empathize with the patient, and when we do that, we see the agony."

Besides giving seminars on depression Dr. Edgardo Perez, executive vice-president and chief of staff at Guelph's Homewood Centre, has facilitated the development of programs addressing women's issues, including eating disorder clinics, and an in-patient program for survivors of childhood trauma.

(Photo by Lynn Jackson)

## Conestoga booklet helps women through labor

By Ross Bragg

Together with six other couples at a prenatal class at Conestoga's Waterloo campus, Lannois and Anandi Carroll-Woolesy are learning the exercises, massages and relaxation techniques to make the last stage of their pregnancy more comfortable.

"How does that feel?" asks Lannois as he gently brings a plastic rolling pin down along his wife's back.

A new 20-page pamphlet produced jointly by Conestoga's health sciences department and graphic arts department could make some of the pain and anxiety associated with labor easier for this couple, and for others across Canada.

The pamphlet uses color photographs and diagrams to take pregnant women and their caregivers through the physical and emotional stages of labor.

Bill Jeffrey, dean of the health sciences department, said the intention is to try to market the pamphlet to hospitals, public health units and midwifery clinics in Ontario then across Canada.

"With the graphic arts department we developed what is called a Birthpaths booklet — our own — because we were not happy with other pamphlets that were on the market," said Jeffrey.

He said the continuing education department previously used a pamphlet written in the United States for their courses in prenatal care, but it was difficult and expensive to get.

"We also didn't like the physio-

logical layout," said Jeffrey, "We thought this would give a better story."

Jeffrey said childbirth specialists from the hospitals were invited to Conestoga last year to help judge presentations by seven groups of graphic arts students on possible design concepts.

"The people from the hospitals couldn't believe it," said Jeffrey, "The students did such an excellent, professional job. It was very hard to come up with a decision about which group got to do the pamphlet."

Jeffrey said the new pamphlet, for example, illustrates how women in labor can use a birthing ball.

"A lot of people don't understand what a birthing ball is," said Jeffrey. "It looks like a great big beach ball."

"But when a woman is having a lot of pain, if she sits on a ball the counteracting force on her pelvis is such that it will ease the pain considerably."

Jo-Anne Copeland, a registered nurse and the coordinator of Conestoga's prenatal care program, wrote the text for Birthpaths.

She said many women found the first pamphlet unclear and too clinical.

"A lot of women did not find the earlier pamphlet very empowering," she said.

"That is one thing we were trying to do," said Copeland, "To really give the woman confidence in her body and in her self that she can do this — because birth is a natural process for women to do."



Lannois and Anandi Carroll-Woolesy, of Waterloo, learn ways to relieve the discomfort of labor at a prenatal class at the Waterloo campus on June 17.

(Photo by Ross Bragg)

## The Sanctuary

### Summer Hours

Monday - Thursday 7 am - 7 pm

Fridays 7 am - 5 pm

Closed on Weekends



Stop by for a game of pool or watch TV during your lunch break  
If you have any suggestions for activities for the summer  
students stop by the DSA Office and let us know!



# Two sisters share Focus for Change awards



AND THE WINNERS ARE — Veronica (left) and Cynthia Barnes won the sixth annual Marjorie Komer Award. (Photo by Pat Craton)

By Pat Craton

Two sisters shared the spotlight on June 20 when they were presented with awards at the sixth annual Marjorie Komer Awards held at the Waterloo campus of Conestoga College.

Cynthia and Veronica Barnes, of Cambridge, were honored at a luncheon to celebrate their achievements as graduates of Focus for Change, through the access and preparatory studies program.

Marjorie Komer, for whom the awards are named, was the first co-ordinator and instructor for the Focus for Change program until her death in 1991. According to an information brochure, the program, funded by the Ministry of Community and Social Services, is specifically to help women on social assistance examine and plan their career directions.

Debbie Cox, instructor for Focus for Change and co-ordinator of the program, and Bill Komer Sr., widower of Marjorie Komer, presented the awards. Cox, in her introductory remarks, said both Veronica and Cynthia take any opportunity they can to come to the information sessions and to promote the program. "They will

at any time come to speak to our new class to encourage other women."

Cox said Cynthia, who enrolled in Focus for Change in 1994, was a source of inspiration for Veronica who started a year later in the two-year program. Cox said it was difficult to choose the winning students for the award. "Every woman who goes through Focus is determined; they (the women) inspire and support one another while still maintaining their individual goals."

In choosing the winners, Cox said she looked for students who had overcome academic and personal barriers. Cox said, "The two ladies today are testimony to what the award is truly about."

Cynthia, who is currently employed full time at St. Luke's, a nursing home in Cambridge, graduated from the health care aid program in December. She enrolled in the Focus for Change program in 1994. She is the mother of a nine-year-old boy, Brett. In an interview, Cynthia said she is grateful to the program. "It is a wonderful program. I would never be where I am today without it. It was a big stepping stone. I have a lot of gratitude for the program and the

instructor, and I wish all the rest of the girls coming through Focus success."

Cynthia is currently taking night school courses to upgrade her health care skills.

Veronica has just completed her first year of the social services program at the Doon campus. She is taking a couple of electives over the summer to lighten next year's course load. She is also doing volunteer work with various organizations, the Food Bank of Kitchener being one.

In an interview, she said Focus for Change is a fabulous program. "I benefitted so much. It really showed me where my strengths were. It was one of the major steps for my going back to school. The instructors were supportive and being that it (the program) was all women, it was more intimate."

Veronica is a mother of two girls, Nikita, 5, and Chantelle, 4.

The luncheon was attended by about 30 people which included the winners' close family, friends and classmates. Members of Marjorie Komer's family were also present, along with Bob MacIver, chair of access and preparatory studies, and Joe Martin, dean of applied arts.

## A reward for women students

By Pat Craton

The winner of the Marjorie Komer award is always a woman. That's because eligible students participate in a women-only program in which Komer — for whom the award is named — was the first instructor and co-ordinator.

According to Conestoga College's information brochure, Focus (Ontario Basic Skills) is the first stage of Conestoga's access and preparatory studies program designed to help women on social assistance in planning their career direction.

The program, funded by Ontario's Social Services, lasts for 12 weeks and there are no tuition fees. Transportation allowance is given and a child care subsidy is available to qualified students.

Debbie Cox, co-ordinator of Focus, said students who are interested in going on to enter a year-long program to further upgrade academic skills. However, it may be shorter or longer, depending on the skill level of the student. This part of the program is open to all.

According to a statement issued by the family, Marjorie Komer was an instructor of applied arts and business at Conestoga College for 14 years prior to her death in March 1991.

A highlight of her career was the certification by the Guinness Book of Records for the world's largest omelette made by Komer and her food preparation students as part of Kitchener-Waterloo's 125th birthday celebration in 1979.

Komer was a mother of nine who balanced a career and family. As a teacher she took a personal interest

in her students' success and instilled in them the confidence that they could accomplish their goals by believing in themselves.

Judy Tenzer, one of Komer's nine children, said although her mother worked in the hospitality and management program for most of her 14 years at Conestoga, it was Focus for Change, her last program, which was the most rewarding. She said the family believes in the program and would like to see women who have gone on to continue with education given a reward for that.

Tenzer said more programs are needed to give women a chance to get a profession or occupation to raise their standard of living.

Bill Komer, Marjorie's husband, five of their nine children and a grandson attended this year's award luncheon.

## Women's group seeks members

By Sarah Smith

The women's resource group at Conestoga is seeking increased participation from female college students and employees.

"We're trying to get more women involved in the group, to put new life into it," said Joan Magazine, a counsellor with student services and a group member.

The group held its most recent meeting on June 17 to begin planning events and purchases for the upcoming school year. Five faculty members attended the meeting, along with a representative of the Doon Student Association (DSA).

Group members said they wanted to see more people from outside the current group participating in the monthly meetings, which are held throughout the fall and spring terms.

"We need something here to revitalize this group," said Barb Kraler, a counsellor with student services and a group member. "There are so many familiar faces here, and none of them students."

The women's resource group was formed in 1994 by the college's former employment equity coordinator, Marg Smith. The group's mission is to provide resources on women's issues, promote awareness of women's issues through a variety of activities, promote networking and social support, and to empower women to make a social change in the college community and beyond.

After group members discussed upcoming events sur-

rounding women's issues, they decided to book a theatre group around the Take Back the Night event on September 17. The group is also planning a new approach to events in its intention to book a male speaker on wife assault prevention.

Committee members said that decisions about other events such as AIDS awareness and breast health awareness would be discussed in detail at the next meeting in September.

Also discussed at the meeting was the purchase of new resources. The group maintains the women's resource centre, located in the learning resource centre.

Sharon Deitz, a journalism instructor and a group member, said the group should consider ordering posters dealing with the prevention of eating disorders, for distribution throughout the college. A video about eating disorders, titled *Slim Hopes*, was recommended by Kraler as another resource purchase by the group.

The members also spoke of the need to promote the group's open approach to gay youth issues.

"There should be posters that indicate we're a gay-positive community," said Magazine.

Also discussed by the women's resource group was the \$2,000 Ministry of Education and Training grant which was approved for the group for 1997. With a deficit of \$200 from last year, \$1,800 remains earmarked for resources, said Kim Radigan, the college's health, safety and environmental coordinator.

## Off campus

## Kitchener Transit 'Rides the Wave' as it launches new natural gas buses

By Bob Puersten

Kitchener Transit is having two contests designed to complement the introduction of compressed natural gas (CNG) buses, the transit commission's supervisor of marketing said June 23.

Sandy Roberts said the purpose of the contest is to add an element of community involvement and fun to the introduction of the "whales" (the CNG buses).

The contest is part of a campaign to introduce the new CNG buses. The campaign also included bus boards and brochures which were sent to every home in the Kitchener-Waterloo area via the PennySaver.

Roberts said the concepts for the

campaign, "Ride the Wave" and the waving "whales tales" are borrowed with permission from the Toronto Transit Commission and Consumers Gas. The TTC and Consumers Gas had a similar bus board when they introduced CNG buses.

"It (using the Toronto campaign) does save us money and we are not reinventing the wheel."

The contests, however, are unique to Kitchener-Waterloo, said Roberts.

One, Name the Whales, is designed for children under 12.

The other, Ride the Transit Waves, involves writing a story or poem 25 words long or less on either an environmental theme or a natural-gas/fuel-choice theme.

This contest is geared for people 12 or older and is designed to make people think about the themes, said Roberts.

Roberts said the new buses, which were officially launched May 30 are safe, reliable, and more environmentally friendly than conventional diesel buses.

Prizes include a Regency natural gas stove, 15 SportsWorld wave-pool passes, two Rockway golf club passes, two Centre in the Square tickets, two Kitchener Transit monthly passes and two Kitchener Transit day passes.

Contest forms are available on K-W buses. The deadline for entrants is 5 p.m. on June 30.



# Cold Black Coffee heats up the bar circuit

By Ian S. Palmer

If you happen to hear a song on the radio by Cold Black Coffee in the near future, it means a lot of hard work by the Cambridge band has paid off.

The group, consisting of Glenn Murphy, 28, on lead vocals and guitar, Damian Baxter, 29, on bass, guitar, and backing vocals and Donny Hibbs, 26, on percussion, is currently recording its debut CD at Grape Vine Studios in Cambridge.

Murphy said the band has been playing the local bar circuit since January 1996, including performances at The Duke of Wellington in Waterloo, The Rose and Crown, The Fiddle and Firkin, The Burns Howff, The Barking Fish and Kelsey's in Cambridge.

The band plays acoustic versions of songs by such artists as Neil Young, Oasis, The Beatles, America and The Tragically Hip, along with songs written by Murphy and Baxter.

"We try to stay away from the most popular songs of other artists and give the crowd something they might not expect to hear," said Murphy. "We also play a few of our songs in each set to gauge the audience's reaction to them. It's always been positive."

Murphy and Baxter had been playing together for four years before deciding to go public as a duo. Hibbs joined them late in 1996.

"Damian and I went out for a year but we didn't officially become a band until Donny joined us," said Murphy. "His percussion

gives us a much fuller sound. He was tiring of drumming for another band and I'd known him for seven or eight years so we decided to go out as a trio."

Murphy said the group's name originated one day as Baxter and a few friends were sitting around drinking coffee. "Somebody took a drink and said, 'uuuugh, cold black coffee'. Damian thought it would make a great name for the band. We agreed it was original and catchy so we kept it."

He said the next step was gaining experience by playing local bar shows. "We made sure we didn't

"We made sure we didn't go out on the road until we were well prepared."

Glenn Murphy,  
Cold Black Coffee

go out on the road until we were well prepared. We play about three dozen songs a night so we rehearsed until we had about 100 to choose from."

They recorded a demo tape of cover songs with a couple of originals and dropped them off at places that feature live entertainment. He said interested bar owners booked the band for a couple of shows each and the bookings kept on coming.

"We'd like to play some shows in Guelph and a few more in Waterloo. They're ideal because they are university towns. There are only so many places to play in Cambridge and there are a lot of performers looking for work, so the pubs get booked pretty quickly. All it really takes is one gig to get your foot in the door," said Murphy.

In September 1996, Cold Black Coffee recorded a seven-song tape of original tunes at Grape Vine Studios in Cambridge, which they sold for \$10 at their performances.



FROM LEFT — Damian Baxter, Denny Hibbs and Glenn Murphy of Cold Black Coffee perform a the Barking Fish in Cambridge June 21.

(Photo By Ian S. Palmer)

The band was interviewed on CKWR-FM in Waterloo in December 1996, and played a few songs live in the studio for the station's listeners.

They went back into the studio in May to remix the original seven songs and to add six more to a CD they are recording.

"We only made 150 tapes and they're all gone," said Murphy. "That's why we are in the studio now recording the CD. We're going to press 500 copies. We figure on giving away about 100 of them for promotional purposes and selling the rest for \$15 each at

our shows."

He said the group also hopes to sell the CDs at local music shops and plans to send some to Newfoundland, where Murphy's cousin has contacts in the music business.

"If all goes well, the CD should be out by Christmas. We may also try some other promotional ideas but we're not sure yet what they'll be."

Murphy said the recording and promotional costs for the CD come out of the band's earnings.

He said they plan on appearing at the Cambridge Arts Festival on

July 27, which will be broadcast by Rogers Cable Channel 20.

They are also considering filming a video for one of the CD tracks.

Murphy said Cold Black Coffee play as often as their personal schedules allow, which is usually every weekend. "For sure we'd like to make a living out of this, but the size of the crowd doesn't matter. We just love playing music."

Cold Black Coffee will be appearing at the Duke of Wellington in Waterloo on July 11 and 12.

# Teens prove you're never too young to sing the blues



Jason Walsh, from Rotary Ten, gets into his band's version of Voodoo Child.

(Photo By Ellen Douglas)

By Ellen Douglas

The blues comes in many forms, from Muddy Waters to the electrified blues/rock of Stevie Ray Vaughn. But on the night of June 21, the blues was delivered to the patrons of Mrs. Robinsons nightclub by four young men, all under the legal drinking age.

The Kitchener band, Rotary Ten, consists of members Jared Bellenie, 17, on vocals and guitar; Shane Bellenie (they're brothers), 15, on bass; Jason Walsh, 17, on guitar and vocals; and Wayne Bond, 18, on drums.

The band opened their set with an original number they loosely call Blues Picnic Jam. The song was reminiscent of the late Stevie Ray Vaughn.

They also played I'm a Ram, which Big Sugar does a version of; Voodoo Child and Manic Depression, by Jimi Hendrix; Wrong Place at the Wrong Time, by Philip Sayce; The End, by the Beatles; It's my own Fault, by B.B. King; and Walkin' Blues, by Robert Johnson. Jared Bellenie said they took the more than 60-year-old song, Walkin' Blues, and updated it with their own style.

Their collective style is shaped by the variety of music each band member listens to. Jared Bellenie said one of their biggest influences as a band is local blues musician, Mel Brown.

"When I was a little kid," he said, "my father took me to a bar to see Mel Brown. The people in the bar were talking, and not really paying to much attention to the music, but I was watching him from across the room with a smile from ear to ear. When Mel Brown noticed he had an audience he started getting into it. At the end of the set he came over to meet me and I thought, 'That's what I want to do.'"

Rotary Ten has been together since August. Jared Bellenie said the fact the band is so young sparks interest in the crowd. "There's a big child prodigy trend in the music industry."

However, he said, they do not want to be just a novelty. "We want people to say, 'That was good,' not, 'That was good for their age.'"

The band would like to put out an independent release sometime, said Jared Bellenie. On one hand, it is good to document the band's

progression because artists never stop improving, he said. But, on the other hand, he said, young musicians tend to progress so much in such a short period of time that by the time they would be done the album, they would want to start over and do it better.

Walsh has a more practical reason for not wanting to rush onto the indie scene. "We'll probably wait until we have more money before we put out an album," he said.

But what about the name, Rotary Ten? "When we were searching for a name we started looking through old albums," said Jared. "We found the old REM album, *Dead Letter Office*, and there was a song called Rotary Ten. We thought it was a good name because our influences come from all kinds of music, not just blues. Besides, all the good blues names have been taken."

According to the band, there are a lot of reasons to play the blues.

Shane Bellenie explains, "No matter what you're feeling it comes out."

"Music styles fade in and out," adds Bond, "but blues will never die."



# Bojangles dancers light up Sounds of Summer

By Anita Filevski

Visitors attending Waterloo Park's 14th annual Sounds of Summer Music Festival were treated to a lot more than just music June 21.

In addition to reputable festival stage musicians, like Danny Michel, and up-and-coming indie bands, such as Grace, students of Bojangles Dance Arts showcased their dancing abilities on a separate stage in the Kidsfest area of the park.

Margo Hartley, director of Bojangles Dance Arts, said 70 dancers participated in the Sounds of Summer presentation.

The dance studio has been in operation since 1980, when Hartley moved to the Kitchener-Waterloo area from her hometown of Thunder Bay.

"There weren't many studios at the competitive level," Hartley said, referring to her motivation to start up Bojangles. "We needed to have that kind of venue for dancers."

Now, Bojangles has 300 students learning ballet, tap, jazz and lyrical jazz.

Lyrical jazz, Hartley explained, involves a dancer interpreting a story to slow music.

Teaching staff at the studio currently totals 12, said Hartley, and some of the older dancers help out with the younger ones.

As for the name, Hartley said she chose Bojangles instead of her own name for its tendency to attract people.

"It's catchy and it's cute," she said.

She also referred to the obvious connection people would make to famous dancer, Bo Robinson.

The dance studio works with children as young as three years old, up to and including adults. Younger dancers are grouped by



Dancers from Bojangles Dance Arts strut their stuff at the Sounds of Summer Music Festival in Waterloo Park on June 21. A total of 70 dancers of all ages participated in the show.

(Photo by Anita Filevski)

age and skill level, which can range from beginner to advanced to semi-professional, said Hartley.

Semi-professional and advanced dancers rehearse approximately 11 hours a week, she said, while others, such as the eight-year-old age group, practise six hours a week on average.

Recreational kids dance one hour a week, Hartley said.

Hartley said the most rewarding thing about her association with Bojangles is seeing the dancers' self-esteem increase.

"There's nothing better than the gift of performance," she said. "When they started, some were insecure and shy, and now they're so much more secure. It's such a

disciplined artform, it gives them a foundation to bring to anything else they decide to do."

But parental support has also played a part in the success of the studio.

"The parents are incredible," Hartley said. "They are the nucleus and the foundation of the kids on stage. They're very supportive. Without them, it wouldn't happen."

Although Bojangles teaches a variety of dance forms, jazz remains the most popular among the dancers.

"Kids can relate to it best," Hartley said.

Bojangles' competitive season began in February. The studio's

next performance will take place in July at Toronto's Footloose International Dance Competition.

Among the requirements for the various competitions are dance costumes. Hartley said she designs all the dancers' costumes and asks different seamstresses to make them. For Sounds of Summer, Collette Harding was the seamstress.

As for the music, Hartley said a great amount of effort goes into picking the right song.

"If I'm in a store and I hear a song, I'll run up to the counter and ask what it is," Hartley said. "If it's motivating and makes me want to get out of my chair and dance, if it's catchy and different, then

it's good."

Bojangles also has a Kids 'N Motion program for children ages three and up, where parents can bring in their kids for a half-hour of tap and a half-hour of jazz, Hartley said.

To register for dance instruction, call Bojangles Dance Arts at 570-ARTS. There is a \$20-registration fee.

The studio also offers a summer camp, Hartley said. There will be a drama, dance and arts camp July 7-11 and July 21, and a dance camp July 13-15.

This year's Sounds of Summer presentation marked the studio's first appearance at the outdoor festival.

## Variety of entertainment available at music festival

By Lisa Kloepper

Attendants at the 14th annual Sounds of Summer Music Festival on the weekend of June 21-22 had Mother Nature on their side.

The sun beat down on people watching the bands and exhibition dancers at Waterloo Park West.

Children were entertained by Kidsfest, which included singers and entertainers like the Beirido Brothers and The Magpies.

Colleen Miller, special events coordinator for the City of Waterloo, said Sounds of Summer was originally called Waterloo Days when it first began.

She said they expected approximately 15,000 people to attend the weekend event which runs rain or shine.

Saturday musical draws included festival stage and an indie stage.

Bands like Namesake, Craig Cardiff, and Grace played the indie stage while My Neighbour



Local band Red Stone Circle appeared on the indie stage on the afternoon of June 22 at the Sounds of Summer in Waterloo Park.

(Photo by Lisa Kloepper)

Ned, Mark Perak, Danny Michel, and Hundred Mile House played the festival stage.

On Sunday, attendants could see Moxxy Fruvous, The Killjoys, and 54:40 on the main stage. The festival stage featured The Monoxides, Flux, MAdE, and

Glueleg.

Miller said organizers work on the event year round, and consider it a major event.

"We try to provide a high calibre of entertainment within our budget," she said.

In the past, musicians like rusty,

Big Sugar, Amanda Marshall, The Tragically Hip, Smashing Pumpkins, and Blue Rodeo have graced the stage.

Miller said people are getting a deal seeing so many bands for the ticket prices of \$10 to \$12.

She said over 100 bands applied

to play at the festival, but only eight bands made it to the festival stage, six to the indie stage, and four to Sunday's main stage.

There were also 11 acts to entertain children.

Miller said, "We try to provide music for all ages, but price dictates who can play."

Sounds of Summer is a non-profit event sponsored by local businesses and organizations.

Some of the performers are local, but the festival also features talent from across Canada and the United States.

The local dance community was also featured on a separate stage.

A "vendor village" was set up for local businesses, dealing in handcrafted and imported items.

Sound for the festival was provided by Sherwood Systems Inc.

The park opened for the festival at 10 a.m. and visitors were welcomed to stay until 7 p.m.

The cost for Saturday and weekend passes was \$10, and the admission for Sunday was \$12.



## Summer sounds



A crowd gathers to watch Red Stone Circle perform on June 22 at the Sounds of Summer Festival in Waterloo Park West. (Photo by Lisa Kloeppfer)

## Music recorders

## Broadcast grads tape K-W orchestra

By L. Scott Nicholson

Conestoga College is making its mark everywhere, including at the internationally respected Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony Orchestra.

Rob Currie, a Conestoga broadcasting graduate said at a recent taping of the K-W Symphony, he realized only one of seven cameramen was not a graduate of Conestoga.

"Basically, Carol Ann and I started C to C Productions because in second year, we seemed to be producing all of the class productions and we had such a good time we thought, 'Wouldn't it be cool, if we could get somebody to pay us to do this.'"

*Rob Currie, Conestoga graduate and partner in C to C Productions*

Currie, along with his business partner Carol Ann Whalen, also a 1988 Conestoga broadcasting graduate, created C to C Productions 10 years ago and are currently under contract with ARK Industries in Japan.

"Basically, Carol Ann and I started C to C Productions because in

second year, we seemed to be producing all of the class productions and we had such a good time at it that we thought, 'Wouldn't it be cool, if we could get somebody to pay us to do this?'" he said.

Currie said his company is in the process of videotaping a year's worth of concerts by the K-W Symphony for the Japanese company.

The appealing feature about this project, Currie said, is that he and his film crew are shooting the concerts with seven different cameras from seven different angles.

"We're recording a whole slew of concerts over the next year until May 1998, and then the tapes will be used to edit together a TV show. What the company is originally wanting to do this for is to create digital video discs (DVDs) which are soon to be the replacement for VHS machines," Currie said.

With DVDs, the new technology allows the viewer to choose the angle from which they want to watch the program, he said.

The roots of the current contract began in November 1996, when, Currie said, C to C Productions was asked to tape a performance of the K-W Symphony.

The shooting of the concert then led to the taping of a commercial for Japanese television.

The commercial featured the conductor of the K-W Symphony, Chosei Komatsu.

"They were so impressed with Chosei, the city of Kitchener, the Centre in the Square, the musicians and C to C Productions, that ARK Industries decided out of the entire planet, that they would come to Kitchener to do the sym-

phonic concert series," Currie said.

Also competing with Kitchener for the Japanese contract were the Boston Pops and a symphony in eastern Europe, he said.

"Everybody seems to think we'll be making a ton of money on this and certainly, there will be millions of dollars coming into the K-W area as a result of this project."

*Rob Currie, Conestoga graduate and partner in C to C productions*

"Everybody seems to think we'll be making a ton of money on this and certainly, there will be millions of dollars coming into the K-W area as a result of this project," Currie said.

Due to significant start-up costs, Currie said his company's profit will only be marginal but the experience and prestige that go along with such a huge international project makes the effort worthwhile.

Meanwhile, while Komatsu is guest conducting in Moscow and Japan, Currie and his staff will be working on editing the tape they have already shot. They will also be preparing for the next set of performances by the symphony, slated to begin again in September.

## Hillside Festival set for July 25-27

By Tony Kobilnyk

Imagine you're stranded on an island for a weekend. There's plenty of food, lots to drink and thousands of friendly people with you. Now imagine five stages and about 40 performers, including soloists, groups, poets and authors, all showcasing an event celebrating music, dance and crafts.

Considering this, it's safe to say that you're going to have a great time, and you won't need your ghetto blaster at this beach. The Hillside Festival, now in its 14th year, is a three-day island music bash at Guelph Lake Conservation Area set for July 25-27.

Last year, it was named one of the best music festivals in the world by Acoustic Guitar magazine, an internationally recognized publication from California.

The attendance is modest, only about 3,500, but the entertainment is huge. Hillside provides an amazing diversity in its musical offerings. It covers the entire musical spectrum with everything ranging from world-beat to alternative to jazz and blues, just to name a few.

This year, the focus is on blues, said Michael MacLeod, festival manager. Bands like the Holmes Brothers and Colin James are featured on the bill.

"We didn't plan for blues to be the focus, it just worked out that way," MacLeod said. "We used to have a formula for the number and kinds of bands we wanted, but we're more relaxed now. We just try to make sure all the bases are covered."

About 900 tapes and CDs are sent every year for consideration, MacLeod said, some from as far away as New Zealand.

This year, he said, there is also a focus on young, up-and-coming talent such as Dan Bern and Oh Susanna, both rapidly gaining recognition as sensational singer-songwriters.

"This is what makes Hillside unique," said MacLeod. "We have a lot of young acts that may not be featured at other festivals."

But the blues theme shouldn't create a false sense of convention-

ality about the festival. Consider Boffo, seven musicians that combine funk, jazz, alternative and 20th Century classical for a truly unique sound.

Then there's Swamperella, a Toronto-based acoustic band that plays traditional Cajun with a little junkaroo music thrown into the mix.

From the West African country of Burkina Faso comes Boyaba, a 15-member ensemble of dancers and musicians that bring musical tales of a lifestyle vastly different than our own.

Mambo Nation also adds to the diversity with an Afro-Cuban craze that promises to drive the crowd loco.

MacLeod said each musician that performs at the festival also conducts a workshop. He said workshops usually concentrate on a common theme, such as song writing.

Occasionally bands conduct workshops together and sessions such as these usually end up as jam sessions, he said. At last year's festival, he said, a reggae band held a workshop with Celtic band to see how they could integrate their music.

"I think performers really look forward to festivals. You get a lot of off-the-cuff stuff that wouldn't normally happen in a concert situation. I think that's why a lot of people go to festivals."

Despite the eclectic crowd of festival draws and the outrageous line-up of acts, there's a sing theme that overshadows everything. People come to have a good time, MacLeod said.

"The only complaint about Hillside I've ever heard is that there's so much going on that people don't know what to do," MacLeod said.

Camping is also available and can be arranged through the Guelph Lake Conservation Area park staff.

Tickets can be purchased from the Hillside office at 123 Woodwich St., Guelph or call (519) 763-6396 for the closest outlet.

Prices for the festival range from \$50 for a weekend pass, purchase in advance, down to \$25 for a single-evening pass.



Mike MacLeod, Hillside Festival manager, stands in front of promotion posters for the three-day event. (Photo by Tony Kobilnyk)



# Kitchener-Centre MP on 'great adventure'

Karen Redman is very pragmatic about her new role as Liberal MP for Kitchener-Centre.

"Just bigger numbers and bigger sharks," is the way Tom Galloway said she described it to him three days after her June 9 orientation in Ottawa.

Galloway, regional councillor for Kitchener's South Ward, has known Redman since 1988 when they both first ran for school trustee under different boards. He has served with her on regional council and supported her during her federal campaign.

Galloway said Redman will do well in Ottawa because of her ability to get to the heart of issues.

"Karen is such a clear thinker," he said in a recent interview. "She can really separate the wheat from the chaff very easily."

When Liberal incumbent John English decided to retire from politics, Redman was approached by a local representative to run for the Kitchener-Centre nomination.

She recoiled during an interview at a memory from the campaign when she was asked how she felt being a "Chretien quota queen" — an obvious reference to the group of women who were appointed by the Liberals as candidates in this year's election.

"When you're appointed by somebody, other than the people locally, it always leaves your ability open to question," said Redman. "That's really unfortunate because I think there are some very capable candidates who have found themselves in that circumstance."

Although she will be the first woman to represent Kitchener on the federal level, Redman said good representation does not depend on gender but on listening and doing your homework.

"One of the things I've come to realize," said Redman, "is that in order to represent constituents well, you have to demonstrate that you do your homework, that you can be a team player."

"You do your homework so that when you speak, your colleagues will say, 'When this person speaks they have something to say. Maybe we'll listen.'"

She said that municipal government has allowed her to work with her constituents on a very personal level, dealing with issues that are "very much, where people live. It's the barking dog, it's the trash that didn't get picked up."

She said the notion of public apathy towards municipal government is probably true. "I think a lot of people couldn't tell you who their ward councillor is," said Redman. "But they sure find out when their snow isn't shovelled. [Municipal government] is all those issues that irritate people daily."



**WALKING THE WALK** — Three days before the June 2 election, Redman and her supporters were among the 1,500 who crowded into the Bingeman Park Ballroom to see Prime Minister Jean Chrétien. Flanked by her supporters, Redman takes the stage to greet the P.M.

It was that sort of daily irritant that in 1993 led, then 14-year-old, Matthew Neville to Karen Redman. At the time he didn't think he was going to like her. It wasn't long before he changed his mind.

At the time, Neville, now a grade 12 student at Resurrection catholic secondary school, had just incurred a \$210 fine for skateboarding in a downtown church parking lot. This prompted him to call the mayor and complain since it is impossible to not break the law when skateboarding in Kitchener — the practice has been deemed

illegal on all city property. From there Neville was directed to Centre Ward councillor, Karen Redman.

Neville and his friend, Shawn MacGregor, produced a petition bearing almost 500 names and plans, including a cost analysis, for a plywood skate park. He said it was Redman's involvement that resulted in council's approval for the construction of a concrete structure to be built on the grounds of the Kitchener Memorial Auditorium.

"A lot of people were very iffy about it, and actually a lot of people did not want it

because of the typical stereotype of a skateboarder," said Neville. "We're all satanic little cretins. We're all little kids."

But, Neville said, "She was basically one of the only adults that would even listen to us. She actually took it into consideration."

Redman said she believes issues like those of violence against women and children deserve constant attention and are best heard by government in a context-specific way, backed up with hard data.

"It's a huge issue that demands that both sexes get involved. It's something that continually needs to be raised and kept in front of politicians."

Saddened by cuts to shelters for battered women and the loss of readily available anger management groups for men, Redman said, "The reality is that you can't stay in a shelter for battered women for 24 hours — or 48 — and be expected to have the supports in place to be able to move on. In general violence in society often veers it's ugly head towards women but it's something that everybody needs to be concerned with."

"I think the fact that every six days a woman is killed by a gun in the hands of somebody she knows is a really alarming statistic that we need to deal with."

Redman said she considers her most important life accomplishment the raising of her four children, Laura 20, Abby 18, Joe 17, and Jim 15.

"Before the last two elections my daughters sat me down and asked me, 'Now mom. Are you prepared to win, and are you prepared to lose.' It's just incredible. Sometimes I feel like an adult with training wheels because I get such incredible support from my family."

English's sudden departure from politics left Redman with very little time to consider the nomination.

"For me the biggest concern wasn't whether or not I wanted to do the job — I knew that I would love to do the job — it was the price that you pay as a family. Public life is very demanding."

Redman maintains that managing her political career and her family is a fine balance. But, she's able to get away from it all by simply being a mother.

"All that stuff that grounds you and makes you real — those are the things that matter. Having a very understanding family really helps and having a lot of laundry in my laundry room that waits until I get to it."

The pragmatism Redman expresses over her recent career success extends beyond her political life.

"There was life before politics and there'll be life after politics. This is just a great adventure and phase in my life. I am just so thrilled to be here."

## The short list

### Kitchener's female politicians

With her margin of victory almost two-votes-to-one over Progressive Conservative candidate John Reimer in the June 2 election, Karen Redman becomes the first female MP ever to be elected in Kitchener.

Although the city was incorporated in 1854, research reveals that women have been severely underrepresented in local government.

Information about early female politicians is limited, however, there have been a few women over the years who have stood out and who have ascended the ranks to hold prominent, official positions.

The first woman to appear in election records is Anna Hughes who was the first woman to win a seat on Waterloo council in

1951. Over the 13 years that Hughes spent on council, she served on every committee.

Hughes retired in 1963 to accept an appointment as Waterloo County division court clerk. Speaking at her retirement party, then mayor Jas Bauer said she had been instrumental in breaking new ground.

"You steadily climbed up the ladder and one of these years would undoubtedly have been a fine mayor, as good a mayor as you were an alderman," said Bauer.

Edith MacIntosh joined council as a Kitchener alderman in 1965.

She spent three terms on council before being elected in 1975 as the first woman to serve as mayor of Kitchener.

see K-W Women, page 11



**LAP DOG** — Redman at home with her dog, Frankie a Bichon Frisé.





**GRACIOUS WINNER, GRACIOUS LOSER** — Progressive Conservative candidate John Reimer was applauded when he dropped by Redman's election night party to congratulate her on her win. Councillor Tom Galloway can be seen standing to the left behind Redman.

## One politician's career

Karen Redman has been involved in politics since 1988 when she first ran for schoolboard trustee with the Waterloo Board of Education.

She held that position for two terms then, feeling that she needed a greater challenge, she decided to run for city council in Kitchener's Centre Ward. She was also a councillor for the Regional Municipality of Waterloo.

As a councillor, Redman was involved with several committees including health and social services, planning and economic development, family and children's services and the administration and finance committee.

Redman spearheaded the initiative that saw the approval for construction of a skate park on the southwest corner of the Kitchener Memorial Auditorium.

With the retirement of Liberal incumbent John English, Redman was approached by the Kitchener-Waterloo Liberal Association executive to run in the June 2 federal election.

Born and raised in Kitchener, Redman received a BA in English from the University of Waterloo.

A mother of four, Redman and her husband Warren will continue to live in Kitchener during her four-year term in office.

## K-W women move up political ranks over time

*Continued from page 10*

Chosen citizen of the year in 1966 by the K-W Jaycees and later woman of the year in 1969, MacIntosh actively promoted full-time day care for the over 5,000 pre-school children of working mothers during the course of her career.

In 1969 she cautioned, "Unless mothers of pre-school children who desire day care services keep pressing community organizations, schools, industries and government at all levels, there is a danger that day care will get buried in committee studies and reports."

Today, fully accessible day care is an issue that has yet to be resolved.

By the 1970s, information on elected representatives becomes more comprehensive.

Marjorie Carroll, for whom a nursing lab at the Doon campus was named, has the distinction of being the first woman appointed as mayor of Waterloo in 1977, a position she held by acclamation for the next four terms. At the time Carroll won the appointment over current mayor Brian Turnbull.

A nurse by trade, Carroll was being lauded in the Kitchener-Waterloo (K-W) Record as "one of the better mayors in the city's history" six months into her first term.

Carroll made her mark on the political scene with a personal mandate of public accessibility and by establishing open communication within the council chambers.

An article in the Kitchener-Waterloo Record in 1978 credited Carroll with making sure council had become an "open exchange," something that had, apparently, been missing up until that time.

Carroll is also credited with being a well-informed politician known for doing her homework on issues before bringing them to council. In doing so, she was praised for being able to base her decisions on the facts

surrounding issues.

This is something Redman said she considers important in the political arena. "Issues aren't won on emotional appeals," said Redman. "You have to appeal to people's sense of logic."

Redman says women in politics are often better equipped to deal with the resolution of issues that are brought forward.

She said she doesn't think it's specifically a gender-based trait, but rather that women are taught from an early age to think in conciliatory terms.

Despite their abilities, Kitchener area women have met with limited success when expanding their political horizons.

In 1953 and 1953 at the age of 34, business woman Elizabeth Dreger seemed a certain winner for the federal Tories. Dreger ran in a bi-election and then a general election for the party, defeated both times by Liberal Norman Schneider.

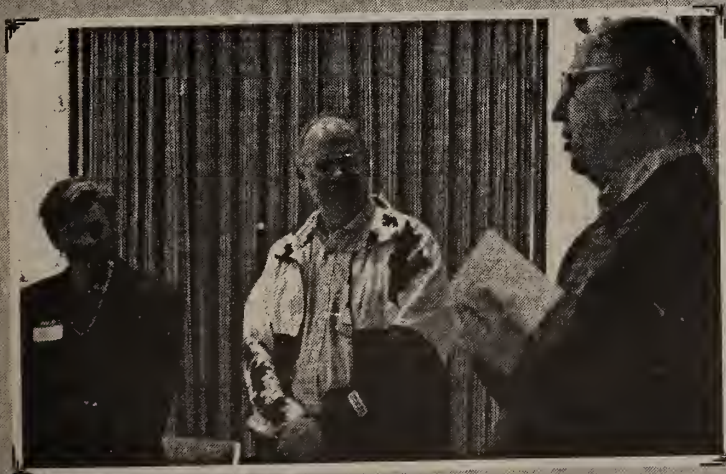
Years later, in 1973, Frank Etherington wrote for the K-W Record that "unabashed discrimination was one of the main vote-winning points in the two campaigns — discrimination by voters against the woman candidate."

By contrast, Elizabeth Witmer has moved up the ranks to become Labour Minister for Mike Harris's provincial Tories. Witmer, the only woman in the Premier's inner cabinet, was called "the most powerful woman in Ontario politics today," by the K-W Record in 1996.

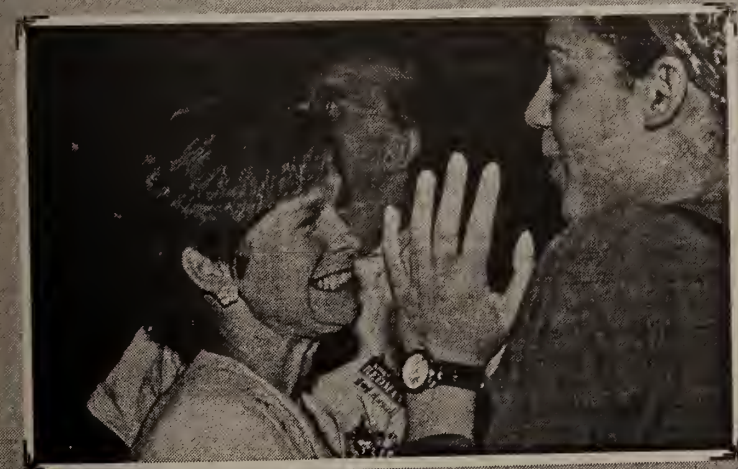
Witmer, like her political peers, has also made it her mandate to maintain a level of personal accessibility for the public.

"The only way I'm going to hear first-hand what it is people want and what their concerns are is for me to make myself as accessible as possible," she said in an interview during her annual constituency open house this year.

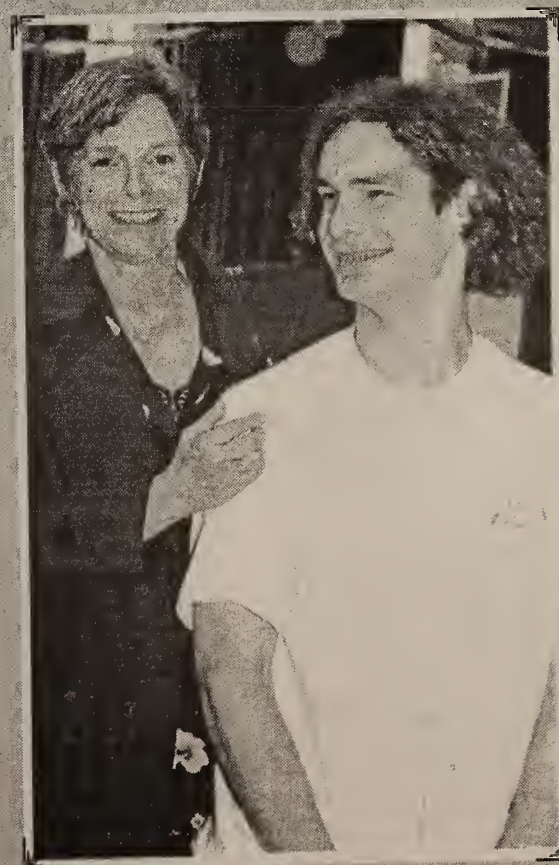
## Campaign scrapbook



**TOP LEFT** — Kitchener-Waterloo incumbent Andrew Telegdi (centre) and retiring MP John English were on hand to support Redman at her May open house at her campaign headquarters on King St.



**BOTTOM LEFT** — Vanessa Jubenot greets Redman on election night. Jubenot was one of over 400 people who volunteered their time to help with Redman's campaign.



**RIGHT** — Joe Redman horses around for the camera before polls closed on election night.



# Wrestling stars come to Cambridge

By Andrea Bailey

About 1,200 wrestling fans were on hand June 20 for the first high-profile International Championship Wrestling (ICW) event at the Preston Memorial arena.

The ICW is the only current Canadian wrestling circuit, said co-owner Ike "the Crippler" Shaw. He said he hopes the organization will grow to be a known competitor with the larger American circuits such as the World Wrestling Federation (WWF) and World Championship Wrestling (WCW). "We have more talent up here in Canada than they have in the States," said Shaw.

"The problem is there is more appreciation south of the border. When we start to build our own fan support, I think we could showcase talent that would blow the States away," Shaw said.

Besides Shaw, the ICW is owned jointly by Cambridge resident and former wrestler Mark Steffler; current ICW star Sailor White; wrestling legend Waldo Von Erich, who holds the record for the world's longest wrestling match at one hour and 29 minutes; former wrestler Smith Hart, who is the brother of current WWF stars Bret "Hitman" Hart and Owen Hart.

The Preston-based wrestling

school opened its doors to the public on April 5 and Shaw said he is happy with the success.

"You've got people running the place who have a solid love for the business," said Shaw. "Plus, when you combine all of our years in the sport, there's at least over 100 years of experience here."

Shaw said the owners have a stack of applications for the school from places as far away as Germany. "It's not a bad deal. The course costs \$2,900 and it lasts until we feel the wrestler is ready to compete in the organization. There is no time limit."

He said wrestlers at the beginner's level can make about \$500 a night — an amount he said that will add up quickly when they are on tour.

"We have our own tour bus," said Shaw. "We will be flying all over Canada as well. Right now, we have 12 arenas booked in Newfoundland and we will keep building from there."

Co-owner Von Erich agrees that the success of the school will grow through a planned building process.

"From here, we are hoping to get our own television air time. Once that is in place, and more people find out about us, the popularity will soar," said Von Erich.

Though the school operates to

train upcoming stars for the larger circuit, the ICW has recruited former American wrestling organization stars such as Tito Santana, Greg "the Hammer" Valentine and "The Bushwhackers".

"There are few stars on the card for June 20 that are not Canadian," said Shaw.

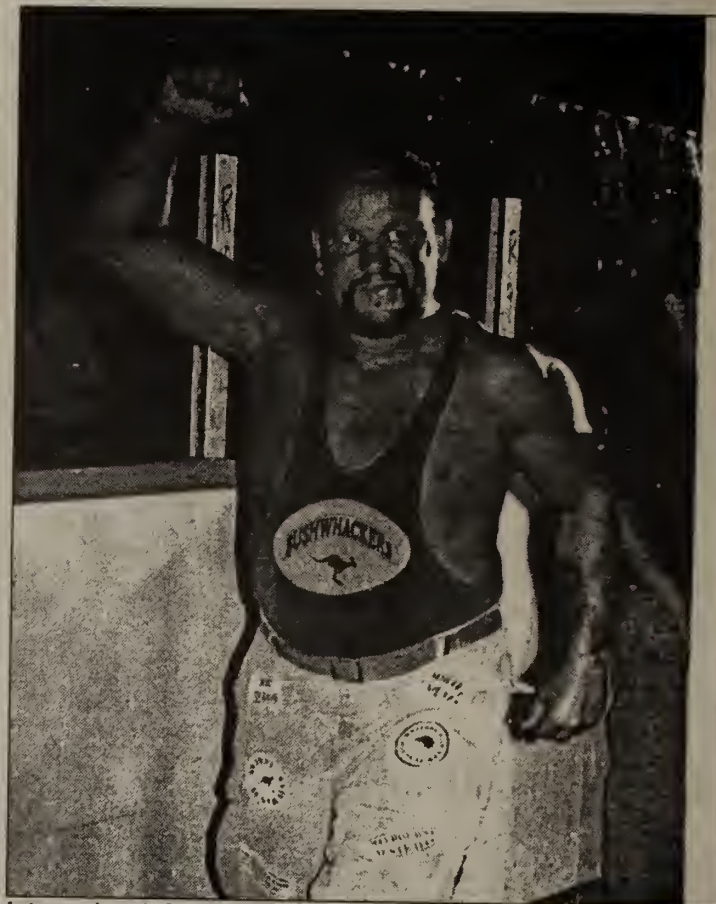
"Canada has produced some of the greatest talent in the sport today. The problem is a lack of circuits in Canada to sign them, so they went to the United States for jobs."

"Look at Bret Hart. He is one of the most well-known wrestlers of today and he's from Calgary. He's under contract with the WWF for the next 20 years, until he's 60 years old. So, the States have enjoyed one of our country's greatest talents."

Von Erich said, because of the space restrictions at the King Street location, the group hopes to buy the YMCA in Galt.

"We would have 30,000 square feet and we wouldn't have to turn anyone down anymore," Von Erich said.

Shaw said the school is for anyone with drive and determination in the sport but they have not yet started training females. "We have to explore that aspect. Right now, we don't see there being much of a market in it."



International Championship Wrestling (ICW) star Luke of the Bushwhackers tag team heads to the dressing room after winning his match June 20 at the Preston Memorial Arena.

(Photo by Andrea Bailey)

## Wu Tang CD is self-promotion

By Corey Jubenville

Another offering from the hard core rap world this week comes from Wu-Tang. The group's debut album, *Enter the Wu-Tang*, went platinum in 1993.

Now they have put out a double CD, *Wu-Tang Forever*, that contains 27 songs, excluding a multimedia track.

From the site they have on the World Wide Web to the liner notes which contain an ordering form for Wu-Tang merchandise, this group is all about self-promotion. If these guys are half the entrepreneurs the Wu-Tang press release makes them out to be, they ought to be fairly well off.

The songs on *Wu-Tang Forever*

are unmistakably hard core, with a steady rhythm accompanying lyrics which are both combative and self-promotional. In the world of hard core rap, this means the usual talk about "bitches" and a good deal of self praise.

But, there are some songs with a message for people. A Better Tomorrow, dedicated to "all the brothers incarcerated," offers the advice that you can't party your life away, drink your life away, smoke your life away, dream you life away, scheme your life away because your seeds grow up the same way.

Another song, Maria, includes a warning about the bad stuff that can happen if you don't protect yourself. Not protection, as in a

Glock semi-automatic, but protection as in sex. The bad stuff being STDs.

Thrown playfully into the mix are clips from various movies. One of the clips is from a Kung-Fu movie which involves a "Wu-Tang clan." Its not a stretch to assume that this is how the group got its name.

The Wu-Tang press release calls the group "rabid fans of Kung-Fu movies" and claims that the group has read the classical Chinese book, *The Art of War*, by Sun Tzu.

Overall, I'd say that *Wu-Tang Forever* may be destined for the hard core hall of fame, for the quantity of its marketing, if not for its music.

## Same ol', same ol' from Slaughter

By Hunter Malcolm

Glitter rock fans, rejoice. Slaughter's new album is out and it rocks, if that's what you're into.

The band which brought music lovers such timeless anthems as *Up All Night* and *Fly to the Angels* back in the late '80s has stayed true to its nature.

The new album, *Revolution*, released on the CMC label is a collection of heavy metal songs that lead singer Mark Slaughter describes as "kick-ass, straight-ahead rock 'n' roll."

Despite the album title, there is nothing revolutionary about the music.

The glitter rock genre has always been rather thin on content and heavy on hair spray and makeup, and this album is no exception.

The guitar riffs are typical of a

sound which appeals to young teenagers, they are simple chords comprising simple melodies.

The title track *Revolution* is about how "we stand, we fight. Life goes full circle. Here we are again."

Whatever that is supposed to mean, the song is a shameless parody of truly original music.

This album does mark a certain departure from their previous releases in that they changed labels.

After the success of their first LPs, the band made a very unusual decision to leave their deal with EMI records and sign with CMC International Records.

That decision was made because, according to the band's bassist Dana Strum, "We were fed up with corporate thinking of a major label and we liked the hands-on attitude

the CMC label president Tom Lipsky seemed to have.

"Our collective decision is to simply make a Slaughter record and not be concerned with passing trends or the business we're in," Strum said.

The song *American Pie*, not actually a regurgitation of Don Maclean's classic song, is supposed to be psychedelic. Peace, love, flower power and all the rest of it are common themes in today's nostalgic fascination with the '60s era.

There is nothing original about it, it is simply a repackaging of an over-done theme. If good music is to be measured merely in terms of record sales, and content is only the vehicle to that bottom line, then Slaughter has indeed stayed true to their roots of '80s glitter rock.

## Con Air psychos shine

By Alison Shadbolt

With actors like Oscar winner Nicolas Cage (*Leaving Las Vegas*) and John Cusack (*Grosse Pointe Blank*), a producer like Jerry Bruckheimer (*The Rock*) and over \$70-million worth of movie, *Con Air* promises bang for your buck and delivers — many times.

Cameron Poe (Cage) is discharged from an elite military group, having learned never to leave a fallen man behind. He is immediately forced to defend his pregnant wife's honor and gets into a fight which leaves one man dead and Poe in prison.

Poe boards the Jailbird seven years later with his friend Baby O. (Mykelti Williamson of *Forrest Gump*) and dozens of mass murderers and serial rapists. They are all flying to a new Alabama maximum-security prison. Poe is on his way home to see his wife and the daughter he's never met before.

Just after takeoff, the convicts put their master plan into action and capture the plane, renaming it *Con Air*. Poe must become a hero and save the fallen man, his dying friend.

High-quality performances in *Con Air* make it stand apart from other big-budget action movies.

Cusack is convincing as the slightly inept U.S. marshal Vince Larkin, who is locked in battle with agent Duncan Malloy (Colm Meaney of *Star Trek: The Next Generation*) over how they should handle the convicts' escape.

Cage gives his usual winning

performance as an unwilling action hero who just desperately wants to go home.

But the real stars are the remorseless criminals, who are so believable they're terrifying. John Malkovich (*In the Line of Fire*) is Cyrus "The Virus" Grissom, a psychotic genius and the mastermind behind the hijacking.

The most feared convict of all makes his entrance in an outfit like that of Hannibal Lecter in *Silence of the Lambs*. Garland "The Marietta Mangler" Greene (Steve Buscemi of *Fargo*) spends most of the flight looking pale and sickly, spouting psychobabble to anyone who listens and getting audience laughs along the way. There's a lot of humor in *Con Air*, but it does little to dispel the tension created by writer Scott Rosenberg and director Simon West.

Special effects involving multiple explosions and a real C-123 plane are spectacular. In one scene, the plane crashes through the Sands hotel in Las Vegas, which was slated for demolition when production began.

The soundtrack is barely noticeable amid the crashes and explosions but manages to heighten the tension even more.

The end of *Con Air* is a little predictable, but it's well worth watching while it's still on the big screen. But don't take your grandmother, unless she has a penchant for violence.

I'd give *Con Air* two thumbs up like Siskel and Ebert did, but my hands are still gripping the seat.